

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2008 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner objects to claims 5-9 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being improper multiple dependent claims. By the accompanying amendment, the improper dependences have been eliminated.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by EP 0 413 136 (cited in the International Search Report). The Examiner states that EP '136 teaches an aqueous polymer adhesive composition comprising a polyvinyl alcohol (A), an amino compound or its salt (B), a crosslinking agent (C) preferably having at least two functional groups, and at least one water-insoluble and alkali-soluble substance and/or water-insoluble and alkali-swellable substance (D), such as copolymers of olefin monomers and carboxylic group-containing monomers.

The Examiner also rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Iguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,119,463. The Examiner states that Iguchi et al. teach an aqueous binder composition comprising styrene-maleic anhydride copolymer, which is a crosslinking agent, isobutylene-maleic anhydride copolymer, and polyvinyl alcohol, the compositions having a weight average molecular weight within the range recited in claim 3. The Examiner also rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yotsuyanagi et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,073,756. The Examiner

states that Yotsuyanagi et al. teach a water-based adhesive composition comprising an N-fatty acid acylated amino acid or alkali metal salt, ammonium salt or amine salt of the acid as a gelling agent, a compound having a polyoxyalkylene structure containing at least four oxyalkylene units, a water soluble or water dispersible polymer having adhesive properties, and water or a mixture of water and solvents and/or one or more plasticizers. The Examiner admits that Yotsuyanagi et al. do not expressly teach a mixture of PVOH and isobutylene/maleic anhydride, but notes that Yotsuyanagi et al. provide a suggestion to use any of the suitable water-soluble or water-dispersible polymers, making the choice of PVOH and isobutylene/maleic anhydride obvious.

By the accompanying amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled. Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the adhesive comprises a water-based adhesive for polarizing elements comprising a polyvinyl alcohol resin, a resin having a maleic anhydride skeleton in the structure, and a crosslinking agent. Amended claims 8 and 9 and new claims 10-12 correspond to original claims 2-6. New claims 13 and 14 correspond to original claims 8 and 9, with their dependencies amended. New claims 15-20 are directed to a method for bonding a protective film to a polarizer element.

As described in the present specification at page 1, lines 3 to 11, and page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 4, the main characteristic feature of the present invention resides in the use of a water-based

adhesive comprising a polyvinyl alcohol resin, a resin having a maleic anhydride skeleton in the structure, and a crosslinking agent, for bonding a protective film to a polarizing element. This is now reflected in the claims as amended. None of the cited references suggests the invention as now claimed.

Furthermore, Test Example 1 of the present specification demonstrates in Table 1 that the polarizers using the water-based adhesive for polarizing element according to the present invention were superior in durability when dipped in warm water of 60°C for 120 hours irrespective of the content of the boron compound in the polarizing element calculated in terms of boric acid.

Test Example 2 demonstrates in Table 2 that the polarizers made using the water-based adhesive for polarizing element according to the present invention were superior in water resistance test in warm water at 60°C and 100% RH.

Further still, Test Example 3 demonstrates in Table 3 that the polarizers made using the water-based adhesive for polarizing element of the present invention was superior also in adhesion in the outer peripheral portion of the polarizer.

None of the cited references teaches or suggests these unexpected advantages.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


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